



VALLEY CENTER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

A Public Agency Organized July 12, 1954

Received 7/19/05

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July 15, 2005

Mr. Paul Dabbs
Statewide Planning Branch
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

**Subject: Letter of Comment, Public Review Draft, California Water Plan
Update 2005**

Dear Mr. Dabbs:

Valley Center Municipal Water District wants to thank you for providing our agency the opportunity to review and comment on the **"Public Review Draft of the California Water Plan Update, 2005"** ("Update 2005").

After review, our comments are as follows:

There are a number of things we see as positive about the "Update 2005," in that it:

provides a strategic framework for the potential of being able to more accurately identify water supply issues and how best, as a state, to meet future demands;

- calls for restoring the state's leadership in water issues, something which has been starkly absent over the last few years;
- places greater emphasis on Regional Integrated Water Resource Planning with both technical and financial support from the state, as key to our collective success in meeting California's future water needs;
- places the appropriate emphasis and priority on the completion of all aspects of the Cal-FED Bay Delta process;

recognizes that more needs to be done to shore up our existing statewide resources to at least preserve what we currently have; and

proposes improvements in data uniformity, collection and analysis of current and future water resources as well as anticipated future demands, paving the way for more effective and specific resource recommendations in the California Water Plan Update 2010.

Mr. Paul Dabbs
California Department of Water Resources
Page 2 of 3
July 15, 2005

There are, however, a number of things over which we have concerns in that the 2005 Water Plan Update:

Essentially defers any specific resource actions until after the Update 2010.

- Provides no specifics on how or who will go about restoring the state to a leadership role in water issues.
- Lists no specifics on how to deal with two critical issues facing DWR, the state and all water users, those being the:
 - The unstable condition of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta; and
 - The onset of and projected impacts of Global Warming on the Delta and State Water Project operations. ***In our view, the state cannot wait until the Water Plan Update 2010 to start evaluating and taking specific steps to secure the Delta; and***
- While ocean water desal is discussed, there is no clear indication of commitment to or recommendations for supporting development of this emerging and potentially significant water resource.

As you move forward to accept input and finalize the 2005 Update, we would offer the following for DWR's consideration:

Paralleling the drafting of the 2005 Update, the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), representing over 450 water agencies statewide, was developing a document which was ultimately entitled, ***"No Time to Waste, a Blueprint for California Water"*** ("Blueprint"). Developed by the ACWA membership, this document provides 12 very focused and specific action items, from asking the Governor to immediately form a Blue Ribbon Task Force to deal with the Delta, to taking aggressive and assertive action to preserve California's Colorado River water rights, to ensuring that additional surface, groundwater, recycling and ocean water desal resources are developed in a timely manner, and to enthusiastically supporting regional integrated water resource planning.

Mr. Paul Dabbs
California Department of Water Resources
Page 3 of 3
July 15, 2005

With the document printed and widely distributed, ACWA will now start developing the specific legislative and regulatory strategies and initiatives to implement the 12 action items in the "Blueprint."

Though the two documents, the Update 2005 and "No Time to Waste" were developed independently, in our view these two efforts fit together very well. In essence, the "Blueprint" provides the specific action under and within the general policy directions provided in the Water Plan Update 2005. We would like to think that ACWA's efforts in the near-term, with DWR's guidance and support, will start the process of taking California toward what will be ultimately recommended in the 2010 Water Plan Update.

Even with the differences in our two documents as to timing, perceived urgency and specificity of recommended actions, we are optimistic that DWR, the Administration, the state legislature and ACWA can work in concert to realize a more stable, reliable statewide and regional supply system delivering ample and high quality water resources sufficient to meet the growing needs of California's thriving population and economy.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment. We would be more than happy to respond to any of your questions or provide additional comment and information.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GA', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Gary Arant
General Manager

and

Member, Board of Directors
Association of California Water Agencies

Cc: Governor Schwarzenegger
Lester Snow, Director, DWR
Jerry Gladback, President, Association of California Water Agencies